

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV UR GW US FR UK GE WB

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN

REFS: (A) BONN 12882 (EXDIS); (B) BONN 10411 (EXDIS);
(C) BONN 10970 (EXDIS)

1. THE DIRECTOR OF SOVIET AFFAIRS IN THE FONOFF HAS TOLD US THAT THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN MOST LIKELY WILL TAKE PLACE THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER OR THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER. THE RUSSIANS HAVE RECENTLY RE-AFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF 1977. THE FRG CALENDAR (NATO MINISTERIAL) PRECLUDES ANY VISIT AFTER THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER. THE SOVIET CALENDAR (ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS) IS THOUGHT TO PRECLUDE ANY VISIT BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER. THE EXACT DATE OF THE VISIT IS SUPPOSED TO BE FIXED DURING A VISIT TO MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR KLAUS BLECH.

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2. BLECH IS ALSO PREPARED DURING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF THE THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE STALLED OVER BERLIN QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, FONMIN GENSCHER HAS GIVEN HIM NO NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY. RATHER, THE GERMAN POSITION IS THAT THE BREZHNEV VISIT HAS VALUE IN ITSELF, AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SIGN AGREEMENTS AT THAT

TIME. THIS POSITION WAS FIRST VOICED EARLIER IN THE YEAR BY GENSCHER, AND HIS TOUGH POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS CAUSED ITS ACCEPTANCE, AT LEAST BY ALL LEVELS OF THE FONOFF.

3. IN A NEGOTIATING ROUND ON THESE THREE AGREEMENTS EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE RUSSIANS (BONDARENKO) INSISTED ON GIVING NEGOTIATING PRIORITY TO THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. HIS ARGUMENT WAS THAT, SINCE THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THE THREE AGREEMENTS, ITS SOLUTION WOULD LEAD TO QUICK SOLUTIONS FOR THE OTHER TWO. THE FRG ACCEDED TO THIS RUSSIAN REQUEST, EVEN THOUGH IT WISHED TO PROCEED FIRST WITH THE CULTURAL PROTOCOL. NOW THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BOGGED DOWN AGAIN, BLECH MAY PROPOSE THAT THEY GO BACK TO THE PROTOCOL AND FORGET SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION FOR THE MOMENT.

4. AS FAR AS THE FRG IS AWARE, THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAS NOT CHANGED. THAT IS, THE SO-CALLED "PERSONAL SOLUTION" BY WHICH DIRECTORS AND VICE DIRECTORS OF FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS LOCATED IN BERLIN RECEIVE VISAS IN THEIR PERSONAL, NOT OFFICIAL, CAPACITY.

5. AFTER BLECH RETURNS FROM MOSCOW, GENSCHER PLANS
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TO MEET AGAIN WITH GROMYKO WHEN THE TWO ARE IN NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA. THIS MEETING WILL AFFORD YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR THE BREZHNEV VISIT. THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF THESE TALKS WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY THE OUTCOME OF BLECH'S TALKS IN MOSCOW.

6. OUR SOURCE MENTIONED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE DROPPED ANY LINK BETWEEN A BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN AND A MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT CARTER.

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